

## February 26, 2009 Winter KEEC Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Berry Mansion, Frankfort KY

- ♦ Members Present: Horace Brown, Cheryl Messenger, Marcus Norton, Evelyn Morgan, James Funk
- ♦ Staff Present: Jane Eller, Michelle Nevels, Julie Gee, Yvonne Meichtry

Horace Brown, Chairman, opened the meeting. Mr. Brown welcomed all attendants and asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Messenger moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Morgan seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The council elected new officers during the meeting. Horace Brown was elected Chairman of the board by motion from Ms. Messenger and seconded by Ms. Morgan. Evelyn Morgan was elected vice-chairman, nominated by James Funk and seconded by Cheryl Messenger.

Mr. Brown asked Mrs. Eller to proceed through the agenda.

### Budget Overview

Jane Eller addressed the current state of the budget. There is a surplus of funds within the budget for KEEC. Each line item of the budget was discussed in detail. The current eMars report indicates the council has \$239,953.24 available for operations for the remainder of the FY 2008-2009, as of current receipts posted to account. However, most of this money is encumbered for the Environmental Knowledge survey conducted by the UK Survey Research Center, KUPEE, and the KYTC Storm Water Program.

### Green & Healthy Schools

Ms. Eller indicated that the position for the Program Coordinator for Green & Healthy Schools is still vacant; however, the vacancy will be filled once interviews are completed for the position. Horace Brown indicated that he will be forming a green committee in Shelby County, Kentucky. Mr. Brown reported that the Shelby County Board of Education is in the process of approving a new school building that will be built to green standards.

### Certification

Ms. Eller reported that certification program will be held in one location this year so that folks can drive in rather than having to spend the night at the workshop site. Though some instructional time will be lost, this will enable people who cannot afford the program otherwise to attend. All workshops are held at McConnell Springs in Lexington, Kentucky.

### KUPEE

University of Louisville has returned \$19,500 to the Council. University of Kentucky shall return \$26,000.00. The council members considered giving the University of Louisville surplus back to the university. The budget office is investigating if the money may be returned. It was motioned that the council would reconsider the decision to return University of Louisville's surplus money to the university at the next council meeting.

## **EEinKY**

Michelle Nevels reported that the number of event listings for EEinKY are increasing. Jane Eller asked the Council to consider whether to allow green businesses to be listed on the site. Georgia and North Carolina both allow green business to be listed on their respectful websites. Mr. Brown stated that the Council may need legal advice before doing this. The council also was concerned that it would be difficult to verify if the businesses were green businesses.

## **MS4**

Julie Gee and Yvonne Meichtry reported the current plans for the MS4 funding. They reported that the middle and high school units will be distributed to all communities. They will be attending and completing several public outreach social marketing conferences in the months ahead. They also completed the storm water survey. They survey indicated that in general there is a lack of general knowledge for storm water. Mr. Waldner with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is still to determine if the program will continue for the upcoming fiscal year.

## **Questing**

Ms. Eller reported that the Questing Workshops are now in progress. She attended the first workshop at Wolfe Creek Dam. The plan for the questing experiences is that families will get a stamp when they complete the quest activity. Kentucky is the 1<sup>st</sup> state to initiate questing on a statewide basis. Questing will be advertised on the EEinKY website.

## **KY Clean Energy Corps**

Secretary Jonathan Miller is initiating a program called the Clean Energy Corps and has asked KEEC to assist with the education portion of this project. Presently, volunteers will winterize low-income Kentucky households in Lexington, KY. After the eligible households in Lexington, KY are winterized, the group will expand to other areas of the state. The program is supported via stimulus money. Both owners of weatherized homes and of middle and upper income homes will receive education about energy efficiency.

## **Energy Management Workshop for Schools**

Michelle Nevels reported that KEEC is partnering with NEED and KEEPS for energy management in Kentucky public schools. The workshop covered break-out sessions for professional development for educators and fiscal officers in Kentucky school systems. All of Kentucky public schools are responsible for designing an energy management plan for their individual schools. More of these workshops will be held in the fall.

## **No Child Left Inside**

The new law may allow an avenue to incorporate an increase of environmental education in the school system curriculum plan. KEEC is communicating with the KDE to include EE in KY Core Content.

Master Plan & next Council Meeting is April 6, 2009 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Frankfort, KY.

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W Horace Brown, KEEC Chair

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Jane W Eller, KEEC Executive Director